



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Seattle District

# Public Notice and Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Navigation Section  
Post Office Box 3755  
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755  
Attn: John Pell (OD-TS-NS)

Notice Date: 28 March 2017  
Expiration Date: 26 April 2017  
Reference: CENWS-PM-ER-17-04

## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, QUILLAYUTE RIVER FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND DISPOSAL BETWEEN 2017 AND 2024, LA PUSH, WASHINGTON**

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) plans to conduct routine dredging and disposal activities associated with maintenance of the Quillayute River Federal Navigation Channel and Boat Basin in La Push, Washington. The maintenance dredging and disposal program for 2017 - 2024 is described below, and the location of the proposed dredging and disposal sites are shown on the attached figures. The dredging would be performed one or multiple times during the designated period as necessitated by shoaling conditions and as permitted by the availability of Federal resources. The Corps has prepared, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups, and agencies on the Corps' proposal for dredging and disposal of dredged material into the waters of the U.S.

This Public Notice is being issued under Clean Water Act Section 404 and in accordance with rules and regulations published as 33 CFR 335 "Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material into Waters of the U.S. or Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 336 "Factors to be Considered in Evaluation of Army Corps of Engineers Dredging Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material into Waters of the U.S. and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 337 "Practice and Procedure"; and 33 CFR 338 "Other Corps Activities Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material or Fill into Waters of the U.S."

## **AUTHORITY**

The Quillayute River Navigation Channel project and maintenance dredging by the Department of the Army was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 3 July 1930 (House Document 290, 71st Congress, 2nd session) and modified by the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 2 March 1945 (79th Congress, 1st Session) and 3 September 1954 (83rd Congress, 2nd Session).

**LOCATION:** This project is located at the town of La Push in Clallam County, Washington (T28N, R15W, Section 28). Refer to Figure 3 for the location of the navigation channel and disposal sites. The project site is accessed via travelling west to the end of Washington State Route 110 to the Quileute Tribe's Marina at 47.910744 North latitude and -124.635793 West longitude.

## **PROPOSED PROJECT**

The proposed work would dredge up to 100,000 cubic yards of material per dredging event from the channel and boat basin and dispose of it at one upland disposal site and two beneficial use sites over the seven-year period of 2017 through 2024. Specifically, the proposed dredging activities include a 2,900-foot long section of the authorized navigation channel, which varies in width from 100 to 275 feet, and the 335,000-square-foot boat basin. The navigation channel would be maintained to the authorized depth of -10 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) plus two feet of allowable overdepth. Each dredging episode is expected to take approximately 60 days but may extend to 120 days if foul weather causes delays. Dredging would occur with a hydraulic dredge during the designated work window of 1 September to 1 March. Material would be placed at First Beach after 1 October to allow time for decanting and to reduce potential risk to surf smelt.

The proposed dredged material has been tested and determined suitable for aquatic disposal, as found in the most recent Suitability Determination dated January 2011 by the regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over dredged material disposal in open-water sites. Sediment testing includes both chemical and biological testing. Sampling will occur again in August 2017 prior to the next dredging episode. All sediment testing data are available at the Corps Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) website at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Dredging/>. Material would be transported via pipeline for placement in one of the following designated disposal sites: Site B beneficial use placement area on Quillayute Spit, and Site A upland site at La Push for later transport to First Beach beneficial use placement area (see Figure 3).

## **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the project is to provide for safe navigation and moorage by maintaining the authorized depth of the channel, marina, and the U.S. Coast Guard Station moorage slips. The purpose for disposal at the two beneficial use sites is to keep estuarine sediments in the natural system for beach nourishment and to reinforce the Quillayute Spit and the South Jetty. Maintenance of the project is needed for vessels to safely access the marina, and so that the U.S. Coast Guard can keep their response vessels stationed in this location. This station is the only harbor of refuge and vessel response point between Neah Bay and Grays Harbor.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**

The proposed maintenance activities have been reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of

1976 (16 U.S.C. §1801 et. seq.); Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344); Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.).

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) Analysis have been prepared for this action and are posted online at the following website:

<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Documents/>.

The Draft EA's public comment period is concurrent with the comment period for this Public Notice. Once complete, the Final EA will be posted and available on the Seattle District website listed above.

The Corps has analyzed effects to threatened and endangered species pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. The Corps has determined the preferred alternative will have no effect to any ESA-listed species or critical habitat and has prepared documentation of this determination. Based on coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps has determined it need not request consultation in light of this "no effect" determination. Documentation of the analysis is an appendix to the draft EA for public review.

The Corps is seeking a Clean Water Act, Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) from the Environmental Protection Agency. In conducting activities involving the discharge of dredged material into waters of the U.S., the Corps will abide by the conditions of the WQC to ensure compliance with State water quality standards. The Corps has determined that the proposed work is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the approved Washington Coastal Zone Management Program and will provide this determination to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) for their review. The Coastal Zone Management Act General Consistency Determination is an appendix to the Draft EA and public comments may be directed to Ecology as per page 5 of this notice. The Corps has coordinated the work with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Quileute Tribe.

### **PUBLIC INTEREST EVALUATION**

The decision to proceed with this disposal of dredged material will be preceded by a determination of whether the proposed activity would be in the public interest. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal's public interest will be considered; among those are navigation and the Federal standard for dredged material disposal; water quality; coastal zone consistency; wetlands; endangered species; historic resources; scenic and recreation values; fish and wildlife; marine sanctuaries; applicable state/regional/local land use classifications, determinations, and/or policies; conservation; economics; shoreline erosion and accretion; safety; and considerations of property ownership.

As a foundation for its public interest determination the Corps will consider, on an equal basis, all alternatives that are both reasonable and practicable, i.e., available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes. The Corps will select the alternative that represents the least costly alternative, constituting the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States in the least costly manner and at the least costly and most practicable location, that is consistent with sound engineering practices, and that meets the environmental standards established by the Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation process.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Any person may request, in writing and within the comment period specified in this Public Notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing must clearly set forth the following: the interest that may be affected, the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity, and the particular reason for holding a public hearing regarding this activity.

### **COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD**

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the effects of this activity. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on ESA-listed species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. The proposed discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this Public Notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. Submitted comments should include the public notice number on the subject line. The comment must include the commentator's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. The nature or scope of the proposal may be changed upon consideration of the comments received.

Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. John Pell, Project Manager at (206) 764-3413 or via email at [John.L.Pell@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.L.Pell@usace.army.mil).

All e-mail comments should be sent to [John.L.Pell@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.L.Pell@usace.army.mil). Conventional mail comments should be sent to: Mr. John Pell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navigation Section (CENWS-OD-TS-NS), Post office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information that is submitted such as names, phone numbers, and addresses.

### **COMMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act may do so by submitting written comments to the following address:

Attn: Ms. Justine Barton  
US EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, MS 202-3  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
[barton.justine@epa.gov](mailto:barton.justine@epa.gov).

Encl: Figures (3)



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600  
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006*

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for  
Certification of Consistency with the  
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: March 28, 2017

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307(c) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-PM-ER-17-04 will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
SEA Program  
Post Office Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

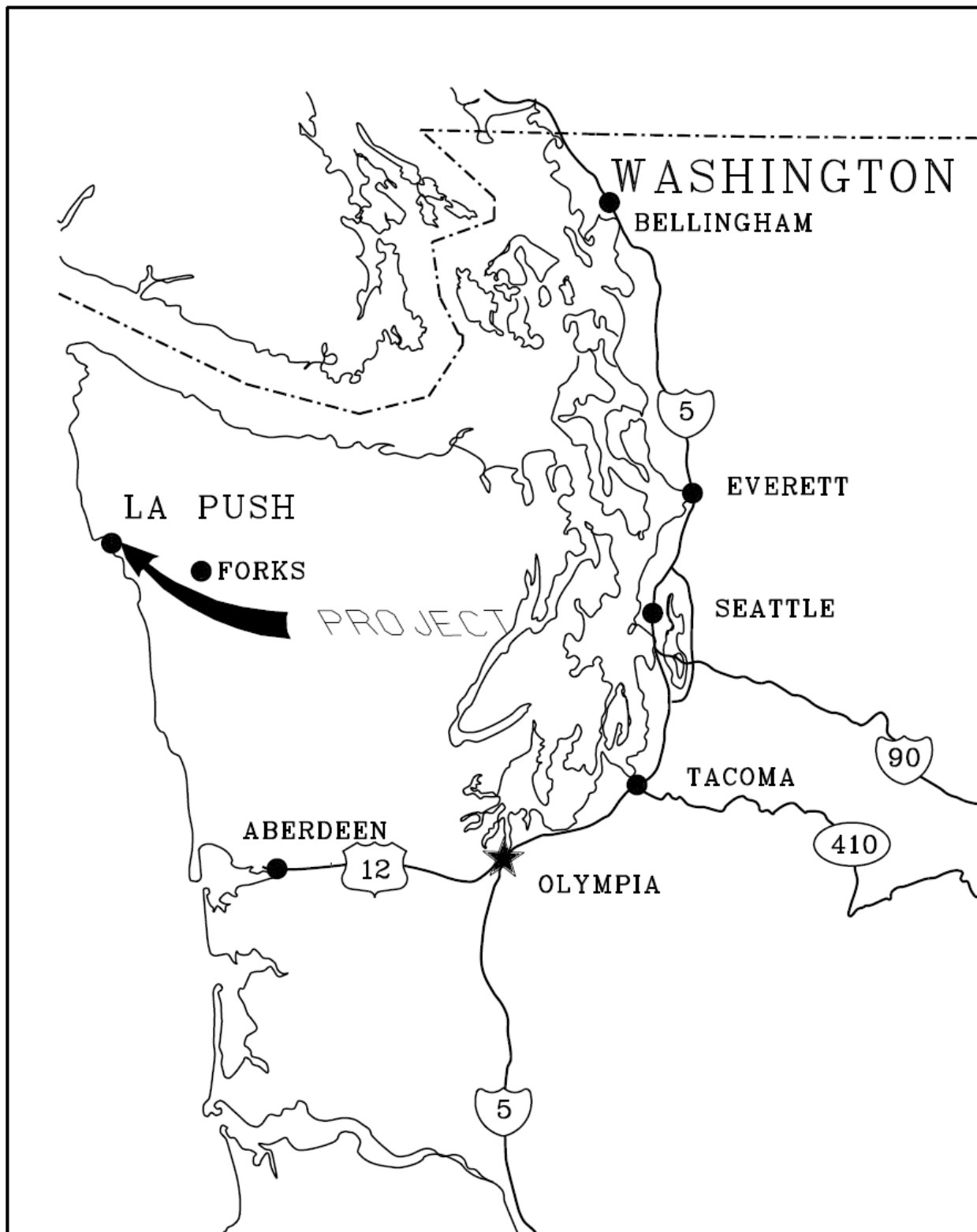


Figure 1. Location of Quillayute River Navigation Maintenance Dredging Project on the Washington Coast.

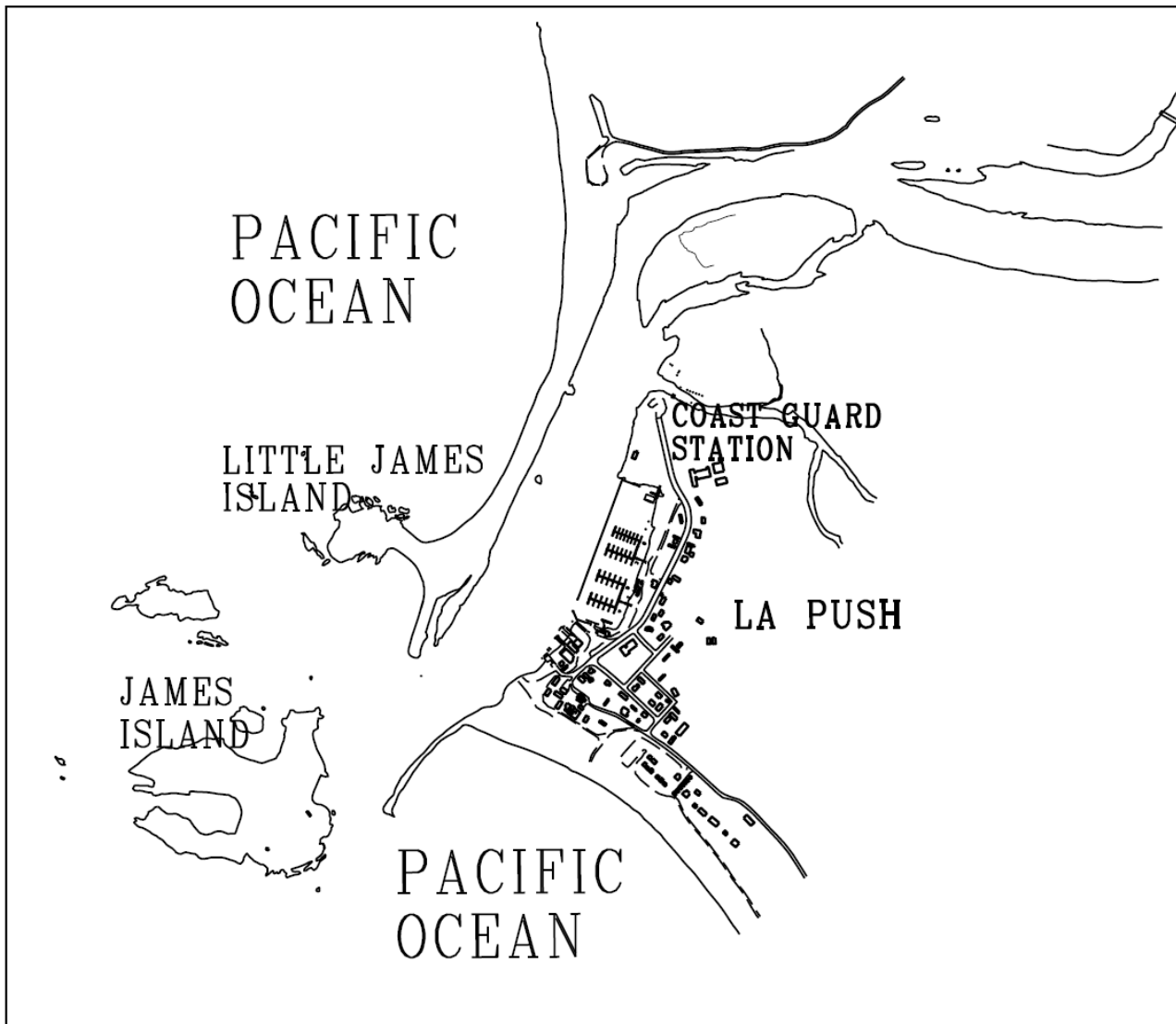


Figure 2. Project Area of the Quillayute River Federal Navigation Channel, U.S. Coast Guard Station, and town of La Push, Washington.



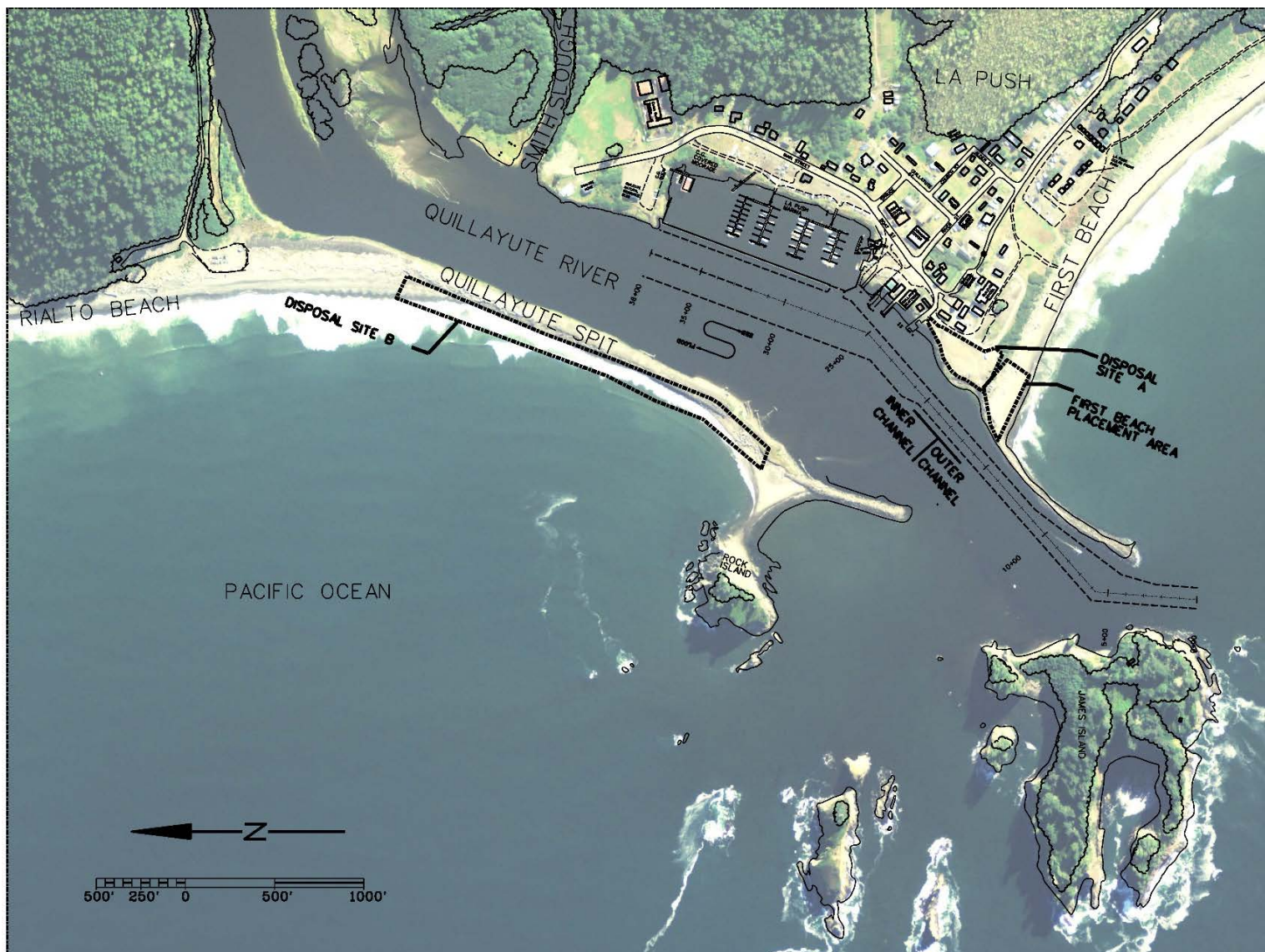


Figure 3. Quillayute River Federal Navigation Channel and boat basin with Disposal Site A, Disposal Site B, and First Beach sediment placement area.